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RECORDATION DATE: 05/23/1997

REEL/FRAME: 8589/0529

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

PATEL, ARVIND

DOC DATE: 05/23/1997

ASSIGNEE:

M-1 DRILLING FLUIDS, L.L.C.
5950 NORTH COURSE DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77072

SERIAL NUMBER: 08862201

FILING DATE:

PATENT NUMBER:

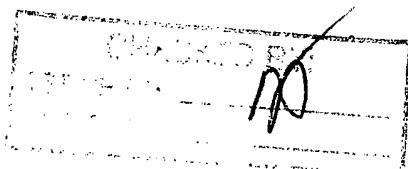
ISSUE DATE:

TARA WASHINGTON, EXAMINER
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To the Honorable Commissio

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08/08/9765212 U.S. PTO
09/77/08/97
01/26/97

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Arvind D. Patel

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

 Assignment Merger Security Agreement Change of Name Other:

Execution Date: May 23, 1997

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: M-I Drilling Fluids, L.L.C.

Internal Address:

Street Address: 5950 North Course Drive

City: Houston State: Texas Zip: 77072

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application number(s) or registration number(s): Application is filed herewith

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: May 23, 1997

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Stephen H. Cagle

Internal Address:

Street Address: Post Office Box 4433

City: Houston State: Texas Zip: 77210-4433

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 C.F.R. 3.41) \$ 40

 Enclosed Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number: 01-2508, Order No. MIDR:582/WHC

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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9. Statement and signature.

*To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.*Carter J. White, P-41,374

Name of Person Signing

Carter White
Signature23 May 97

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document: 2

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03 FC:581 40.00 QPMail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments
Washington, D.C. 20231

A S S I G N M E N T

FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, does hereby:

SELL, ASSIGN AND TRANSFER to M-I Drilling Fluids, L.L.C. (the "Assignee"), a corporation of Delaware having a place of business at 5950 North Course Drive, Houston, Texas 77072, the entire right, title and interest for the United States and all foreign countries in and to any and all improvements which are disclosed in the application for United States Letters Patent, which has been executed by the undersigned concurrently herewith and is entitled "**IMPROVED OIL-BASED DRILLING FLUID**" such application and all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue and all other applications for patent which have been or shall be filed in the United States and all foreign countries on any of such improvements; all original and reissued patents which have been or shall be issued in the United States and all foreign countries on such improvements; and specifically including the right to file foreign applications under the provisions of any convention or treaty and claim priority based on such application in the United States;

AUTHORIZE AND REQUEST the issuing authority to issue any and all United States and foreign patents granted on such improvements to the Assignee;

WARRANT AND COVENANT that no assignment, grant, mortgage, license or other agreement affecting the rights and property herein conveyed has been or will be made to others by the undersigned, and that the full right to convey the same as herein expressed is possessed by the undersigned;

COVENANT, when requested and at the expense of the Assignee, to carry out in good faith the intent and purpose of this assignment, the undersigned will execute all divisional, continuing, substitute, renewal, reissue, and all other patent applications on any and all such improvements; execute all rightful oaths, declarations, assignments, powers of attorney and other papers; communicate to the Assignee all facts known to the undersigned relating to such improvements and the history thereof; and generally do everything possible which the Assignee shall consider desirable for vesting title to such improvements in the Assignee, and for securing, maintaining and enforcing proper patent protection for such improvements;

TO BE BINDING on the heirs, assigns, representatives and successors of the undersigned and extend to the successors, assigns and nominees of the Assignee.

Signature: Arvind D. Patel
Name: Arvind D. Patel

Date: 5 - 23 1997

Signature: _____
Name: _____

Date: _____

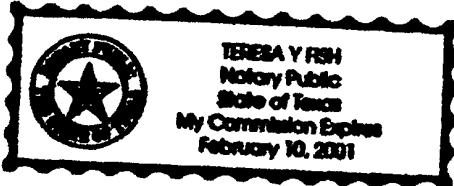
Signature: _____
Name: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF §
§ ss.
COUNTY OF §

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this 23rd day of May, 1997, personally appeared Arvind D. Patel known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same of his own free will for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

[SEAL]



Jeresa Y. Tish
Notary or Consular Officer